

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-05 CIAE-00 H-02

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NSC-05 BIB-01 NRC-07 FEA-01 /116 W

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P R 151855Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2964

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

ERDA GERMANTOWN MD

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 3580

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TAGS: PARM TECH IAEA

SUBJECT: NPT REVCON: PNE COMMITTEE PROPOSAL

DEPT PASS AMB TAPE

REF: GENEVA 3497, 5/14/75

1. DURING MAY 14, "INFORMATION MEMORANDUM" WAS DISTRIBUTED TO ALL
DELS ON COMMITTEE II JOINTLY BY AUSTRALIA, FRG, JAPAN, THAILAND
AND UK, TITLED "NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES", TEXT
OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

QUOTE - NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES

INFORMATION MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED JOINTLY BY AUSTRALIA, FEDERAL
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, JAPAN, THAILAND AND UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT
BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND

WHEN THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
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AGENCY MEETS IN VIENNA ON 10 JUNE 1975 IT WILL HAVE BEFORE IT A

RESOLUTION, CO-SPONSORED BY THE ABOVE-MENTIONED STATES, CALLING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT, UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, OF AN ADVISORY GROUP ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THE ADVISORY GROUP, WHICH WOULD NOT BE A PERMANENT BODY, WOULD HAVE THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE -

(A) TO EXAMINE THE ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES (PNE) COMING WITHIN THE AGENCY'S SPHERE OF COMPETENCE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO -

(I) PROCEDURAL ASPECTS RELATING TO POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR PNE-RELATED SERVICES;

(II) LEGAL ASPECTS AND TREATY OBLIGATIONS;

(III) HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS; AND

(IV) ECONOMIC ASPECTS, INCLUDING COMPARISONS WITH NON-NUCLEAR ALTERNATIVES,

TAKING FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK ALREADY DONE IN THESE FIELDS BY TECHNICAL COMMITTEES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AGENCY;

(B) TO ADVISE THE BOARD ON THE FACTORS INVOLVED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR PNE AS ENVISAGED IN PARAGRAPH I(C) OF ITS RESOLUTION ON PNE OF 13 SEPTEMBER 1974, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY DECISION-MAKING MACHINERY OF THE BOARD THAT MAY BE REQUIRED; AND

(C) TO ADVISE THE BOARD, WITHIN THE AGENCY'S SPHERE OF COMPETENCE, ON THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF AGREEMENTS NECESSARY UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS;

THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM IS TO SET DOWN, FOR THE INFORMATION OF STATES ATTENDING THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY REVIEW CONFERENCE, THE PURPOSES WHICH THE CO-SPONSORS OF THE RESOLUTION ARE SEEKING TO SERVE BY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ADVISORY GROUP.

IN FORMULATING THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, THE CO-SPONSORS WERE MINDFUL OF THE FOLLOWING FACTORS RELEVANT TO THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES, VIZ:

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(I) THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES USED FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES RELEASE THE SAME EXPLOSIVE ENERGY, RADIATION AND RADIOACTIVITY AS DO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. TO A LARGE EXTENT THEY ARE ONLY DISTINGUISHABLE FROM NUCLEAR WEAPONS BY VIRTUE OF THE PURPOSES TO WHICH THEY ARE PUT. A CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE UNSOPHISTICATED (AND LARGELY UNSUITABLE) NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES REPRESENTS A CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE UNSOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

A CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE THE SOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES WHICH ARE REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PEACEFUL USE REPRESENTS A CAPABILITY TO MANUFACTURE SOPHISTICATED NUCLEAR WEAPONS;

(2) THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES REQUIRED FOR EFFECTIVE AND RESPONSIBLE PNE USE INEVITABLY INVOLVES A MAJOR AND HIGHLY EXPENSIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EFFORT. FOR MOST PNE APPLICATIONS FUSION EXPLOSIVES ARE ESSENTIAL;

(3) THE SHORT TERM RADIOACTIVITY, BLAST AND SEISMIC HAZARDS OF PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS CAN TRANSCEND NATIONAL BORDERS;

(4) IN THE LONGER TERM, MANY PNE PROJECTS ARE LIKELY TO LEAD TO INCREASED RADIATION EXPOSURES IN ALL STATES BY REASON OF THE RADIOACTIVITY RELEASED INTO THE ATMOSPHERE AND/OR OCEANS AND, IN RESOURCE RECOVERY PROJECTS, TO THE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF THE PRODUCT;

(5) THE WORK WHICH HAS BEEN DONE TO DATE IN DEVELOPING THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES IN MOST INSTANCES DOES NOT PROVIDE AN ADEQUATE BASIS FOR JUDGING WHETHER OR NOT SPECIFIC PNE PROJECTS MAY BE TECHNICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY VIABLE. AT THE PRESENT RATE OF PROGRESS, IT WILL BE MANY YEARS BEFORE THE VALUE OF PNES AS A TECHNOLOGY CAN BE REALISTICALLY ASSESSED (SEE PARAGRAPHS 17, 19 AND 20 OF ANNEX E OF NPT/CON/12/ADD.1, COPY ATTACHED);

(6) ARTICLE V OF THE NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY CONTAINS A CLEAR COMMITMENT BY PARTIES TO ENTER INTO NEGOTIATIONS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE WITH A VIEW TO EVOLVING INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS OR AGREEMENTS WITHIN WHICH NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES PARTIES TO THE TREATY CAN GAIN ACCESS TO THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF PEACEFUL UNCLASSIFIED

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APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS;

(7) BECAUSE OF THE COMPLEX INTER-RELATED ISSUES RAISED IN THE LEGAL, HEALTH, ECONOMIC AND OTHER FIELDS, IT IS BOUND TO TAKE A CONSIDERABLE TIME TO FORMULATE AND AGREE ON THE INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ENVISAGED UNDER ARTICLE V. THE TASK OF DEFINING THESE ISSUES NEEDS TO BEGIN WITHOUT DELAY. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND THE RESOLUTION WAS DRAFTED WITH THE FOLLOWING OBJECTIVES, VIZ:

(A) TO PROVIDE A FORUM WHERE ALL INTERESTED STATES (FULL PARTICIPATION IN THE PROPOSED ADVISORY GROUP WOULD BE OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE IAEA WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.) CAN RESPONSIBLY DISCUSS BOTH THE POTENTIAL BENEFITS AND THE PROBLEMS AND DANGERS OF THE PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS;

(B) TO ARRIVE AT GUIDELINES WHICH WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO TAKE THE FIRST STEPS TO IMPLEMENT ARTICLE V OF THE TREATY;

(C) TO WORK TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL PNE SERVICE, OPEN TO ALL STATES, AS CALLED FOR BY RESOLUTION 2829 (XXVI) OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, CONSCIOUS THAT THE ABSENCE OF VISIBLE AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL ACTION TOWARDS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A SERVICE LENDS SOME PLAUSIBILITY, ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY VALIDITY, TO CLAIMS BY STATES EMBARKING ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVE DEVICES THAT SUCH ACTION IS ESSENTIAL TO PROTECT THEIR ECONOMIC INTERESTS.

(D) TO BROADEN THE CURRENT TECHNICAL CONSIDERATION OF PNES WITHIN THE SECRETARIAT OF THE IAEA BY PROVIDING A FORUM WHERE THE VIEWS OF GOVERNMENTS CAN BE PRESENTED AND ADVICE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS, WITH A VIEW TO GIVING OVERALL DIRECTION TO THE AGENCY'S WORK IN THE FIELD OF PNES.

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 OES-05 CIAE-00 H-02

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2965

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 GENEVA 3580

STATE PASS AMB TAPE

2. ATTACHED TO "INFORMATION MEMORANDUM" IS COPY OF PAGE 4 OF ANNEX E TO IAEA REPORT ON ARTICLE V, NPT/CONF/12 AND COPY OF "RESOLUTION SUBMITTED JOINTLY TO IAEA BOARD GOVERNORS BY AUSTRALIA, FRG, JAPAN, THAILAND AND UK "TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY GROUP ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES", TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS:

QUOTE

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

(A) DEEPLY CONSCIOUS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE OBJECTIVE OF THE AGENCY REFLECTED IN ARTICLE II OF ITS STATUTE TO SEEK TO ACCELERATE AND ENLARGE THE CONTRIBUTION OF ATOMIC ENERGY TO PEACE, HEALTH AND PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT THE WORLD;

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(B) MINDFUL OF THE FURTHER OBJECTIVE OF THE AGENCY AS REFLECTED IN ARTICLE II OF ITS STATUTE THAT IT SHALL ENSURE SO FAR AS IT IS ABLE THAT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY IT OR AT ITS REQUEST OR UNDER ITS SUPERVISION OR CONTROL IS NOT USED IN SUCH A WAY AS TO FURTHER ANY MILITARY PURPOSE;

(C) DESIROUS THAT ANY BENEFITS WHICH MAY ACCRUE FROM THE USE OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES (PNE) MAY ALSO BE AVAILABLE TO NON-NUCLEAR-WEAPON STATES, AND

(D) RECALLING:

(Q) RESOLUTION 2829 (XXVI) OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS, REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE AGENCY OF AN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR PNE;

(II) ARTICLE V OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND ARTICLE I OF THE TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPON TESTS IN THE ATMOSPHERE, IN OUTER SPACE AND UNDER WATER;

(III) ITS REPORT TO THE GENERAL CONFERENCE IN 1969 ON THE AGENCY'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN CONNECTION WITH PNE AND THE GUIDELINES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL OBSERVATION BY THE AGENCY OF PNE WHICH IT APPROVED IN 1972;

(IV) ITS RESOLUTION OF 13 SEPTEMBER 1974 ON PNE AND THE APPROACH IT HAS DECIDED SHOULD BE ADOPTED BY THE AGENCY IN RESPONDING TO REQUESTS FOR PNE-RELATED SERVICES; AND

(V) RESOLUTION 3261D (XXIX) IN WHICH THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY REQUESTED THE AGENCY TO CONTINUE ITS STUDIES ON THE PEACEFUL APPLICATIONS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, THEIR UTILITY AND FEASIBILITY, INCLUDING LEGAL, HEALTH AND SAFETY ASPECTS,

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1. DECIDES TO ESTABLISH AN ADVISORY GROUP, OPEN TO INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ADVISORY GROUP ON NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES, AND HAVING THE FOLLOWING TERMS OF REFERENCE:

(A) TO EXAMINE THE ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES (PNE) COMING WITHIN THE AGENCY'S SPHERE OF COMPETENCE, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO:

(I) PROCEDURAL ASPECTS RELATING TO POSSIBLE REQUESTS FOR PNE-RELATED SERVICES;

(II) LEGAL ASPECTS AND TREATY OBLIGATIONS;

(III) HEALTH AND SAFETY MATTERS; AND

(IV) ECONOMIC ASPECTS, INCLUDING COMPARISONS WITH NON-NUCLEAR ALTERNATIVES,

TAKING FULLY INTO ACCOUNT THE WORK ALREADY DONE IN THESE FIELDS BY TECHNICAL COMMITTEES UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE AGENCY;

(B) TO ADVISE THE BOARD ON THE FACTOS INVOLVED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL SERVICE FOR PNE AS ENVISAGED IN PARAGRAPH 1(C) OF ITS RESOLUTION ON PNE OF 13 SEPTEMBER 1974, INCLUDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANY DECISION-MAKING MACHINERY OF THE BOARD THAT MAY BE REQUIRED; AND

(C) TO ADVISE THE BOARD, WITHIN THE AGENCY'S SPHERE OF COMPETENCE ON THE STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF AGREEMENTS NECESSARY UNDER ARTICLE V OF THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS;

2. DIRECTS THE ADVISORY GROUP TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN AND TWO VICE-CHAIRMEN;

3. REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL;

(A) TO TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF THIS RESOLUTION TO ALL MEMBERS
OF THE AGENCY, INVITING THEM TO COMMUNICATE TO HIM
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INFORMATION AND VIEWS WITHIN ITS CONTEXT;

(B) TO PREPARE AND CIRCULATE A COMPILATION OF THE INFORMATION AND VIEWS RECEIVED, WITH SUCH COMMENT AS HE MAY DEEM APPROPRIATE, AS A BASIS FOR THE ADVISORY GROUP'S WORKV AND

(C) TO FURNISH THE ADVISORY GROUP WITH ANY EXPERT ASSISTANCE IT MAY REQUIRE, INCLUDING IF NECESSARY THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FURTHER TECHNICAL COMMITTEES, AND TO CO-ORDINATE THE AGENCY'S PROGRAMME IN THE FIELD OF PNE WITH THE WORK OF THE ADVISORY GROUP.

4. REQUESTS THE ADVISORY GROUP TO REPORT, IF POSSIBLE
WITHIN EIGHTEEN MONTHS, SUBMITTING INTERIM REPORTS IF
DEEMED APPROPRIATE; AND

5. REQUESTS THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO BRING THIS RESOLUTION
TO THE NOTICE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS
FOR COMMUNICATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. UNQUOTE.

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